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Kaure language

Kaure is a Papuan language of West Papua. It is spoken in the villages of Lereh, Harna, Wes, Masta, and Aurina.[3][4]

Narau is either a dialect or a closely related language. It is only known from a short word list in Giël (1959).[5]

Kaure	
Native to	Indonesia
Region	Papua: Aurina, Harna, Lereh, Masta, and Wes villages on the Nawa River
Native speakers	(450 cited 1995)[1]
Language family	Kaure–Kosare ■ **Kaure**
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	bpp
Glottolog	kaur1272 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kaur1272)[2]

Map: The Kaure, Kapori, and Kosare languages of New Guinea

☐ The Kaure, Kapori, and Kosare languages

☐ Other Trans–New Guinea languages

☐ Other Papuan languages

☐ Austronesian languages

☐ Uninhabited

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Phonology

Consonants

The Kaure consonants are:[6]:456

p	t		k	
ᵐb	ⁿd	dʒ		
	s			h
m	n			
		l		
w		j		

Vowels

The Kaure vowels are:[6]:456

i, y	
e	o
a	

Tone

Like the Lakes Plain languages, Kaure is a tonal language. There are two tones, namely high and low.[6]:456

Monosyllabic minimal pairs showing phonemic tone contrast include:

- *tái* 'footprint', *tài* 'sago'
- *pí* 'boil', *pì* 'pig'
- *hín* 'limbum wood', *hìn* 'blood'
- *héik* 'flower', *hèik* 'snake'

In multisyllabic words, only one stressed syllable carries full tone contrasts, while the other syllables are "neutral" or toneless.[6]:456

Multisyllabic minimal sets include:

- *káteil* 'toss it', *katéil* 'dry', *katèil* 'dry'
- *nálain* 'female animal', *naláin* 'kind of root', *nalàin* 'to run off'

Pronouns

Attested pronouns are 1sg *wẽ*, 2sg *hane*, 1pl *nene*. The 2sg form resembles Mek *ka-n, and 1pl resembles Pauwasi *numu~nin*, but apart from that little can be said.

Kaure pronouns listed by Foley (2018) are:[6]

	Independent	Possessive prefixes
1excl	wen	na-
1incl	nene	nene-
2	hane	ha-
3	nene	ne-

Kaure pronouns are not specified for number, just like in Nimboran.[6]

Kaure–Kapori hypothesis

Voorhoeve (1975) suggested that Kaure was related to Kapori and Kosare, two otherwise unclassified languages. However, subsequent evaluations have not found any significant connections (Rumaropen 2006, Wambaliau 2006).

References

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2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Kaure–Narau" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/kaur1272). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
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5. Giël, R. 1959. *Exploratie Oost-Meervlakte* [Exploration of the Eastern Lakes Plain Area]. Nationaal Archief, Den Haag, Ministerie van Koloniën: Kantoor Bevolkingszaken Nieuw-Guinea te Hollandia: Rapportenarchief, 1950–1962, nummer toegang 2.10.25, inventarisnummer 13.
6. Foley, William A. (2018). "The languages of Northwest New Guinea". In Palmer, Bill (ed.). *The Languages and Linguistics of the New Guinea Area: A Comprehensive Guide*. The World of Linguistics. **4**. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. pp. 433–568. ISBN 978-3-11-028642-7.

Further reading

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